

CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for obtaining a geographic location of an Internet user that accesses an external network from a private network through a proxy server, comprising:

receiving by an external server on an external network a request for information from an Internet user through a proxy server;

determining by the external server that the request for information is through the proxy server;

redirecting by the external server the request for information to an internal server of a private network, wherein the internal server determines the geographic location of the Internet user by selecting the geographic location of the Internet user from one or more determined geographic locations based at least in part on a confidence level associated with respective determined geographic locations;

receiving by the external server the geographic location of the Internet user from the internal server within the private network; and

using the geographic location of the Internet user in handling the request for information received from the Internet user.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the external network is Internet.

Claims 3-5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:
- determining an internal address of the Internet user;
 - storing the geographic location of the Internet user mapped to the internal address of the Internet user in a geographic location/internal IP address mapping table contained within the private network; and
 - accessing the geographic location/internal IP address mapping table contained within the private network, in order to later determine the geographic location of the Internet user based on the internal address of the Internet user.

Claims 7-12 (Canceled).

13. (Previously Presented) A method for an external server to obtain a geographic location of a user that accesses an external network from an internal network through a proxy server, comprising:

receiving by an external server on an external network a request for information from a user through a proxy server;

determining by the external server that the request for information is through the proxy server;

redirecting by the external server the request for information to an internal server of an internal network;

determining by the internal server an internal network address of the user;

determining a geographic location of the user by selecting the geographic location of the user from one or more determined geographic locations based at least in part on a confidence level associated with respective determined geographic locations;

storing the geographic location of the user and the internal network address of the user in a geographic location/internal network address mapping table such that the geographic location of the user can later be determined based on the internal network address of the user by accessing the geographic location/internal network address mapping table; and

sending the geographic location of the user to the external server on the external network.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the internal network and the external network are both IP networks.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of using by a computer on the external network the geographic location of the user in processing the request for information.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the user is one of a plurality of users on the internal network that accesses the external network using a first external network address of the proxy server.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the user is one of a plurality of users on the private network that accesses the external network using a first external network address of the proxy server.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the user is one of a plurality of users on the private network that accesses the external network using a first external network address of the proxy server.